



Research Paper

Views of Dayanand and Vivekananda for women education

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Summary: Dayanand and Vivekanand both were social reformer. They both took interest to improve the condition of human being. They both thought that to improve the condition of human being, education is the main tool. The most suffering class of the society was women at that time. They both wanted to improve their condition. To achieve their goal both wanted that women must be literate. What were the views of both of them for women's education. This paper is an attempt to analyses that.

Keywords: Reformer, Education, Widow, Child Marriage.

I. Introduction:

Dayanand born in 1824 devoted for upliftment of the society. During his time Indian society was totally complexed. Lower class was suffering immense because on the one hand They did not have a right of study on the other hand they did not have the courage to teach themselves.

Like Lower class, the condition of women was also miserable. There were so many malpractices prevailing in the society. Sati Pratha, child marriages, degraded condition of widow, lack of property right, all were deteriorating their condition.

Social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy tried to change and ameliorate the condition of women. He not only tried to start women's education but also tried to stop inhuman treatment. Like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Dayanand also inclined to improve the condition of down-trodden women. He advocated several times to stop child marriage, pardah system and fought for widow remarriage.¹

He believed that to improve the condition of women, it is necessary to provide them education so that they themselves improve their condition.² He told that as boys has a right to get educated and for that they should respect the path of Brahmacharya. Women should have the same right.³ He also said once women are completed eight year life then they should not keep in their home rather they should send to school for getting education.⁴ In 1875 at Prayag he advocated for women's education.⁵ As he knew that society is still conservative so he gave the example of old text like 'Atharvaveda', that women had a right of getting education in the past and after that they entered into a married life.⁶

To give respect to women he always said that where women does not get respect that clan must be suffer and where they always remain happy that clan must move forward.⁷ To provide them education Dayanand made special provision in the DAV College.

Like Dayanand, Vivekanand was also interested in improving the condition of women. He always hated the child marriage and degraded condition of Indian widow.⁸ He also said that women must be educated and should follow the path of Brahmacharya like men.⁹ He knew that society was complexed at that time and it is impossible to motivate everyone for women's education so he declared it is proper to educate women and if they would not be educated then that country would not get progress.¹⁰

He believes in the power of women. He said it several times that we have to provide only education to women rest would be done by them themselves.¹¹ After inspiring Vivekanand, his disciple Sister Nivedita opened a girl school in 1898 at Calcutta.¹² Later in this school adult education was also started.¹³ Vivekanand also wanted that women should be independent. He wanted that they should provide Art and creative knowledge in the school and college so that they could stand on their own feet.¹⁴

II. Conclusion:

Thus both were interested in the women's progress, only difference was that Dayanand wanted them to be literate for the growth of the society. He always said women must be educated but never said that they should be independent. He only gave women's opportunity in teaching profession because he wanted that women must

be taught by only of woman.¹⁵ He was a little bit conservative also because he always said that their should be separate schools for both men and women.¹⁶

Contrary to this Vivekanand never said that both should have a separate school rather he wanted women must be independent.¹⁷ The main cause of their difference was in their time. Dayanand born on 1824 when it was impossible for women to get education. At that time social reformer were fighting with bad evils of the society. They thought it is necessary first to provide them education. Every reformer were involved in opening schools for women's education. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar opened 35 girls school Dayanand also fought for their education. Vivekanand born in 1863 wanted that women should not only get education but also be independent so his wanted to give education to women in their way and make them independent.

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